

# **Lemhi County Public Guidelines For Wildland Fire Evacuation**

## ***Lemhi County Evacuation Guidelines***

**Evacuation guidelines are implemented when all of the following conditions exist:**

- Persons or property are directly exposed to severe danger;
- The impact of danger is in progress or is imminent;
- The time lost in obtaining approval would prevent successful protective measures

## **AUTHORITY:**

**Once the IC of an event decides an evacuation may be necessary, he/she shall brief the Sheriff as soon as possible.**

The decision to evacuate can only be made by the Sheriff (or his designee; i.e. one of his deputies).

Evacuations are **ADVISORY ONLY** AND CAN ONLY BE DONE ON A VOLUNTARY ACTION.

Voluntary evacuation is exempt during the following situations:

Broader incidents where danger is imminent provided that an Emergency Proclamation or a Disaster Declaration has been executed.

## **OPERATIONS**

**Inform and advise potential evacuees of the potential incident related danger.**

Law enforcement personnel should always be aware of potential danger and ensure their own personal safety.

As a general rule, we will not spend time and resources arresting people who choose NOT to comply with evacuation orders.

### **Notification to Evacuate**

- If circumstances permit, we will make an effort to notify residents in the affected area of the possibility of an evacuation.
- Unless dangerous circumstances prohibit the above, we will attempt to inform residents door-to-door.
- When door-to-door contact is not possible, deputies should use PA systems, horn and emergency overhead lights.

### **Evacuation Control Kits**

#### **Contents:**

Evacuation information forms (100)

Fluorescent 1" ribbon (10 rolls)

Adhesive tape

Felt tip permanent pen/markers

Zip-lock bags (25-1 gallon capacity)

## **Considerations**

**A majority of evacuees will secure their own accommodations rather than stay in an Evacuation Center.**

- Has Emergency Services been notified?
- Has Local Red Cross Disaster relief team been notified?
- Have Evacuation Centers been established?
- Where are they located?
- What are the best routes to travel to them?

Will transportation assistance be necessary for evacuees?

## **Procedures**

- **Use evacuation control kit**

\*Contact residents door to door and inform them of the current evacuation status:

- #1. Prepare to evacuate, or
- #2. Evacuate (advice of evacuation route)

\* Give each resident an Evacuation Form.

\*If door-to-door is not possible, use the PA system

- 1. Lights and siren may be necessary to gain attention
- 2. Distribute Evacuation Forms as residents leave.

\* Mark residences with a long piece of fluorescent tape.

- If time permits, decisions to evacuate due to toxic gas/gases or some other extreme degradation of air quality should be coordinated with:
  - 1. District VII Health Department and
  - 2. National Weather service
- Establish:
  - #1. 24-hour roadblocks at point of entry and
  - #2. Security patrol in evacuated areas
- Evacuated areas are closed to ALL unauthorized persons.
- Begin planning for allowing residents to permanently return to evacuated area.

## **Evacuation Decision Factors**

- Identify evacuation areas by using commonly known boundaries rather than using “distance from “ statements.
- When time permits, residents should receive individual briefings on the incident and evacuation procedures.

- When an area is evacuated we should anticipate residents in proximate areas might also be evacuated.
- Grouping specific evacuation orders (i.e. pregnant woman and children) will generate voluntary evacuation by others.
- Planning for logistics of returning residents back to their home should begin as soon as the evacuation order is issued.

## **Population Protection Guidelines**

### *Evacuation Information for Local Citizens*

Lemhi County Sheriffs Office is preparing a Population Protection Guideline for the citizens in this vicinity \_\_\_\_\_. The guideline is contingency preparedness measures in the event of an evacuation in this area. The information on this sheet is being provided to you to inform you of the steps in the evacuation process and what may be necessary for you to do **IF** an evacuation occurs.

### **THREE STAGES OF EVACUATION**

#### **Stage 1- Alert and Warning (Voluntary Evacuation)**

There is a high probability of the need to evacuate. Law enforcement personnel/representatives (Salmon Search and Rescue) will attempt to make personal visits to each resident and business in the threatened area.

Residents are responsible to make arrangements to move property and livestock. Some residents, primarily those with special needs or other concerns, should relocate during this stage of evacuation.

#### **STAGE 2-Request/Order of Security**

Evacuation is necessary in order to protect the lives of area occupants and emergency personnel responding to the incident. Law enforcement, Search and Rescue personnel shall attempt to convey this order/request to citizens door-to-door. If this is not practical or possible this information may be delivered via a Public Address System from a patrol vehicle. Should the latter method be employed the personnel will activate the emergency lights and sirens on the vehicle. By code in the State of Idaho no resident can be forced to evacuate his or her residence, unless ordered by the Governor. This is a voluntary action.

Roadblocks and 24-hour patrols by law enforcement will be instituted to protect property within the evacuated area.

#### **STAGE 3- Return**

Occupants are allowed to return as soon as it is safe.

### ***EVACUATION ROUTES AND CENTERS:***

A **Staging Area** has been established at: (State Location)

In the event of an evacuation you should report to this center and check-in to let officials know that you have made it safely out of the affected area. Following check-in you have the choice of staying at the center or going elsewhere for accommodations (i.e. friends, relatives or hotels). If the road is blocked, travel in the opposite direction and call the Lemhi County Sheriff's Office (**911**) as soon as possible. Please provide the name and phone number of the place to which you are relocating. We will need a point of contact and a phone number.

**Keep Informed.** The success of this guideline requires the cooperation and assistance of informed occupants. Stay tuned to local media outlets for updates. Listen and ask questions when an emergency service representative contacts you.

**Plan Ahead.** Preplanning can help you avoid last minute frustrations. Plan where you will go and WHAT YOU WILL TAKE when you evacuate.

## WARNING

**This area may be evacuated**

**Because of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By the order of the Lemhi County Sheriff      Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Time:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Evacuation Center** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evacuee Information Form NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER IN FAMILY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN EVACUATED, GO TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

Even if you plan to stay elsewhere, please check in at the nearest evacuation center. If you do not plan to stay at the center please fill out the following information

We will be staying at (name/physical address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/State:

\_\_\_\_\_

In the case of an actual evacuation, return this form to the nearest roadblock so we are assured of your safety. If you decide to pre-evacuate, please return this form to Lemhi County Sheriff's Office or call 208-756-4203 and provide the above information. There are 3 stages in the evacuation process. Personnel from the Sheriffs Office, Salmon Search and Rescue, or Designee by Sheriffs Office will attempt to contact you and keep you informed as to the current stage of evacuation in your area.

## Evacuation Package

### **Door-to-Door Contact Checklist**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify yourself and briefly explain the nature of the emergency.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Advise occupants to evacuate or to be prepared for evacuation. Tell them what the signal will be if evacuation becomes necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. If time permits, have occupants complete Evacuee Information Form  
**If time does not permit, tell evacuees to complete the Form at the evacuation Center.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Inquire if occupants have transportation or if anyone needs special assistance. Advise to take pets and prescription drugs,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Instruct occupants on routes to use, precautions, and the location of the Evacuation Center.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. If no one answers the door, ask neighbors for information. Obtain approval for forced entry if necessary to aid children, bedridden, handicapped, or elderly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Complete Evacuation Refusal Form for persons refusing to evacuate. Log name and address of home where no one answers. Report these names and address to your Supervisor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Mark evacuated residences with long strip of ribbon from Evacuation Kit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Mark area with WARNING-AREA EVACUATED notices from the Evacuation Kit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Maintain log of residents and address contacted.

**Public Address Contact Checklist - When Door-to-Door Contact is NOT Possible**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Incident Commander shall approve the message before used.  
Content will vary with the circumstances. Keep it short and to the point.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Select a broadcast spot for good coverage. Consider wind direction and PA carrying distance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Stop the vehicle and give a steady tone on the siren for 10 to 15 seconds.  
Wait 10 to 15 seconds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Give the message TWICE. Use a slow command voice. Do not shout for amplification.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sample: "YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. THE \_\_\_\_\_ (County Sheriff) HAS ADVISED THAT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE OF EXTREME DANGER FROM \_\_\_\_\_ LOCK YOUR HOMES AND PROCEED ON \_\_\_\_\_ (route and directions) TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Evacuation Center) PLEASE EVACUATE NOW."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Have the team patrol neighborhoods to maintain order and provide assistance to those with no transportation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Hand out Evacuee Information Forms as residents leave the area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Mark each dwelling, known to be evacuated, with a long piece (approx. 36') of reflective ribbon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Mark area with "WARNING AREA EVACUATED" notice from the Evacuation Kit

## EVACUATION CONTACT LOG

**EVACUATION STAGE:**\_\_\_\_\_

**INCIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION:**\_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICER(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]



## ***Lemhi County Sheriff's Office Evacuation Refusal/Waiver***

\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_, have been advised by  
The Lemhi County Sheriff's Office to evacuate this property/location,  
due to extreme danger, which is evident.

\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_, **REFUSE** to evacuate  
this property/location and acknowledge that I know and understand the hazards.  
If, I remain or enter this area, I hold harmless the "agency" responsible for  
evacuation.

\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_, will evacuate this property/  
location, however, I wish to return to check my property from time to time. I  
acknowledge that I know and understand the hazard. I hold harmless the  
"agency" responsible for evacuation. I understand that if I do not check in and  
out at the same Check Point each time I go to and from my property, I may  
not be notified if the danger increases.

Address/Location where individual was advised to leave (list below):

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Person **REFUSING** to evacuate (list information)

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # : \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_